

PRIME MINISTER

Meeting on Economic Summit

We have arranged weekly meetings between now and the Summit. But my impression is that if we are to have an effective Summit, we have got to make rapid headway on the substance - and you may need to be rather emphatic on this point at tomorrow's meeting. There is less than a month to go.

I suggest you take points in the following order.

a) Thematic Paper (Flag A)

As you asked, I have suggested to Sir Robert Armstrong that the references to America be made less pointed. I attach his minute in response to this suggestion. Are you content that he should now circulate the Thematic Paper? I do not think you should spend long at this meeting on the Paper - this now needs to be circulated rapidly to Summit participants.

b) British Initiatives

You decided at a previous meeting that a number of initiatives should be pursued. But there are two others which need to be considered urgently. Everyone is expecting the Summit to produce something on international terrorism. A FCO draft of a possible statement will be available before your meeting but not, I regret, tonight. You will need to consider whether the draft is sufficiently substantial, given the expectations that have been aroused. If not, perhaps we should begin to dampen down expectations.

The FCO draft statement on democratic values will also

Now attached:
Flag C.

Flag D.

be available before the meeting (but not tonight). Unless we can produce a really good text - and agree it at the Summit without endless argument - we run the risk of a good deal of sniping criticism from the media. You will therefore wish to satisfy yourself that the draft is worth proceeding with. And we must quickly put it to the other Governments concerned.

c) Initiative on the Environment?

We should discuss the Foreign Secretary's minute of 8 May (Flag B) and decide whether to pursue this initiative.

Sir Robert Armstrong has also suggested that we should consider what to do in the way of post-Summit briefings for non-participants. This seems to me to be a very low priority at the present stage and I do not think you should spend much time on it.

A. J. C.

9 May 1984